

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES "BOOZE IT & LOSE IT: OPERATION FIRECRACKER" CAMPAIGN BEGINS TOMORROW

RALEIGH — Gov. Mike Easley announced today that state and local law enforcement officers will be out in force over the Fourth of July holiday as part of the "Booze It & Lose It: Operation Firecracker" campaign. Checkpoints and stepped-up patrols will be conducted June 28 to July 8 throughout the state in an effort to remove impaired drivers from the roads.

"As North Carolinians celebrate our nation's independence with friends and family this Fourth of July, I want to remind them to do so responsibly," Easley said. "Law enforcement officers will be out in full force, cracking down on impaired drivers to help keep our roads safe."

In 2006, 43 North Carolina motorists were involved in fatal traffic crashes during the Fourth of July holiday week. Twelve of those fatalities were alcohol-related. Alcohol-related crashes also accounted for 309 injuries in the state during the same week last year.

More than 1,700 North Carolina motorists were charged with driving while impaired during the 2006 "Booze It & Lose It: Operation Firecracker" campaign. More than 52 checkpoints and stepped-up patrols were held.

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NOTE: For more information regarding "Booze It & Lose It," or for citation totals, visit the Governor's Highway Safety Program's Web site: www.ncdot.org/programs/GHSP. There will be an opening checkpoint news briefing with participating law enforcement officials at 9 p.m. Thursday, June 28 at the Newport Town Hall, 200 Howard Blvd., Newport. The checkpoint will open at 10 p.m. following the briefing.

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